

another instance of the action date component referred to herein as a child action date component;

means for associating the child action date component with the parent action date component;

means for setting the point in time specified in the date property of the child action date component by offsetting from the point in time specified in the date property of the parent action date component by an offset value associated with the child action date component;

means for associating an instance of the action component with at least one instance of the action date component;

means for executing the task method associated with the instance of the action component based on the point in time specified in the date property of the instance of the action date component to which the instance of the action component is associated; and

wherein the association of a component with another component includes making the component aware of the other component such that the component can access certain of the properties, methods or events associated with the other component.

4. The system of Claim 2, wherein the object model components include an action list component, the system further comprising:

means for associating an instance of the action list component with at least one of the instances of the action date component;

means for associating each instance of the action component with at least one instance of the action list component, thereby associating each instance of the action component with the instance of the action date component with which the instance of the action list is associated; and

means for executing the task method associated with the instance of the action component based on the point in time specified in the date property of the instance of the action date with which the instance of the action list component is associated.

5. (Amended) The system of Claim 4, further comprising:

means for associating the child action date component with the instance of the action list component, thereby associating the child action date component with the parent action date component with which the instance of the action list is associated.

6. (Amended) The system of Claim 5, further comprising means for associating an instance of the action list component with another instance of the action list component, thereby associating instances of the object model components that are associated with the action list component with the other instance of the action list component.

7. The system of Claim 6, wherein there are a plurality of action list components associated with a parent component, the system further comprising:

means for grouping the action list components associated with the parent component according to context; and

means for executing the action list components associated with the parent component based on an occurrence of the associated context.

9. (Amended) A method for programming automated task lists to be performed by a computer system, comprising:

providing an object model, including an action date object and an action object;

the action date object having an associated date property that specifies a point in time;

the action object having an associated task method;

associating an instance of the action object with an instance of the action date object, wherein the association of a component with another component includes making

the component aware of the other component such that the component can access certain of the properties, methods or events associated with the other component;

configuring the action object to perform a specific task method;

providing a graphical user interface having:

a graphic representation of the action date object; and

a graphic representation of the action object;

generating an instance of the action date object when the graphic representation of the action date object is selected, the instance of the action date object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action date object displayed in the graphical user interface;

generating an instance of the action object when the graphic representation of the action object is selected, the instance of the action object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action object displayed in the graphical user interface;

assembling a bolt that graphically represents the automated task list by associating the graphic representation of the instance of the action object with the graphic representation of the action date object by way of the graphical user interface; and

storing information pertaining to associated instances of the object model objects as an automated task list.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the bolt is displayed in the graphical user interface as a checklist.

11. (Amended) A method for programming automated task lists to be performed by a computer system, comprising:

providing an object model, including an action date object, an action list object and an action object;

the action date object having an associated date property that specifies a point in time;

the action object having an associated task method;

associating an instance of the action list object with the instance of the action date object;

associating the instance of the action object with the instance of the action list object, thereby associating the instance of the action object with the instance of the action date object through the action list object;

configuring the action object to perform a specific task method;

storing information pertaining to associated instances of the object model objects as an automated task list; and

wherein the association of a component with another component includes making the component aware of the other component such that the component can access certain of the properties, methods or events associated with the other component.

12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

providing a graphical user interface having:

a graphic representation of the action date object;

a graphic representation of the action list object;

a graphic representation of the action object; and

generating an instance of the action date object when the graphic representation of the action date object is selected, the instance of the action date object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action date object displayed in the graphical user interface;

generating an instance of the action list object when the graphic representation of the action list object is selected, the instance of the action list object having a

corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action list object displayed in the graphical user interface;

generating an instance of the action object when the graphic representation of the action object is selected, the instance of the action object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action object displayed in the graphical user interface; and

assembling a bolt that graphically represents the automated task list by associating the graphic representation of the instance of the action object with the graphic representation of the action list object and by associating the graphic representation of the instance of the action list object with the graphic representation of the action date object by way of the graphical user interface.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the bolt is displayed in the graphical user interface as a checklist.

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

grouping the action list objects associated with the action date object according to context, wherein the graphic representation of the action date object includes a region associated with each context; and

associating the graphic representation of the instance of the action list object with a context by attaching the instance of the action list object with the region associated with the context by way of the graphical user interface.

15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

storing the automated task list as a constituent automated task list; and

assembling a parent automated task list from at least one constituent automated task list by associating that constituent automated task list with the parent automated task list.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

providing a graphic representation in the graphical user interface of the constituent automated task list as a constituent bolt;

generating an instance of the constituent bolt when the graphic representation of the constituent bolt is selected, the instance of the constituent bolt having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the constituent bolt displayed in the graphical user interface; and

assembling a parent bolt that graphically represents the parent automated task list by graphically associating the graphic representation of the instance of the constituent bolt with the graphic representation of the parent bolt.

17. A method for performing an automated task list with a computer, comprising:

providing an automated task list, including:

a parent action date component having an associated parent date property;

a child action date component having an associated child date property;

the child action date component associated with the parent action date component;

an action component associated with an action date component in a bolt, the action component performing a pre-configured task method when executed;

setting the date property of action date components in the bolt by iterating the bolt from parent action date component to child action date component and adding an offset value associated with the child action date to the value of the date property associated with the parent action date, wherein the offset value is either a positive or negative unit of time;

leaving the value of date property as previously set if the date property is marked as a hard date; and

executing each action component associated with the action date component based on the point in time specified in the date property of the action date component.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the bolt further includes an action list component associated with an action date component and the action list component has at least one associated action component, the method further comprising executing each action component associated with the action list component when the action date component executes the action list component.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the action date component selectively executes an associated action list component based on an analysis of pre-configured conditions.

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising a graphical user interface that displays the automated task list as a graphical representation of the bolt.

21. The method of Claim 18, further comprising a graphical user interface that displays the automated task list as a checklist.

22. (New) The system of Claim 2, further comprising:
a visual programming interface component;
means for generating an instance of the object model component via the visual programming interface component; and
means for assembling a bolt that graphically represents the automated task list by associating each instance of an object model component with another instance of an object model component by way of the visual programming interface component.

23. (New) The system of Claim 22, wherein the means for generating an instance of the object model component generates:
a graphic representation of each instance of the action date component;
a graphic representation of each instance of the action component; and